

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 10031 151525Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-07 FEAE-00
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
EPG-02 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15
STR-04 /140 W

-----151915Z 078519 /43

R 151514Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9072
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS BONN 10031

USEEC
USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY
USIAEA

DEPT. PASS NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW, IR
SUBJECT: STORAGE OF GERMAN SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL
ELEMENTS IN IRAN

REF: A. BONN 11284;JULY 1976; B. BONN 9619; C. BONN
5929

1. SUMMARY: IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON JUNE 10
THE SHAH OF IRAN REPEATED HIS OFFER TO STORE GERMAN
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NUCLEAR WASTE IN DESERTED AREAS IN IRAN. FIRST
OFFICIAL FRG GOVERNMENT REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL WAS
VERY RESERVED, BUT NEWSPAPER COMMENTS SPECULATE THAT
SUCH A SOLUTION MIGHT SUBSTANTIALLY FACILITATE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRONGLY-OPPOSED GERMAN NUCLEAR
ENERGY PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 13 THE SHAH HINTED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT A GERMAN - IRANIAN BILATERAL AGREEMENT WAS CONCEIVABLE WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE STORAGE OF GERMAN NUCLEAR WASTE IN ONE OF THE HUGE DESERTS IN HIS COUNTRY. OFFICIAL GERMAN COMMENT INDICATED A CERTAIN INTEREST IN THIS PROPOSAL, BUT AT THE SAME TIME DESCRIBED THIS OFFER AS UNOFFICIAL. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAS STATED THAT THE FRG WAS AIMING AT INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT, EXPERTS OF THE RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL MINISTRIES DISPLAYED STRONG SCEPTICISM BECAUSE THE GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS OF THESE AREAS HAS NEVER BEEN EXAMINED AND THIS SOLUTION INVOLVED THE RISK OF LONG DISTANCE TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.

3. IN HIS MOST RECENT INTERVIEW ON JUNE 10 AS REPORTED HERE, THE SHAH DENIED THAT STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE STORAGE OF FOREIGN SPENT FUEL WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN HIS COUNTRY. HE SHOWED A LITTLE SURPRISE AT THE NEGATIVE REACTION THAT HIS FIRST PROPOSAL HAD CAUSED. THE SHAH DISCLOSED THAT HIS OFFER WAS AN ANSWER TO AN INQUIRY THAT HAD BEEN POSED TO HIM, NOT HIS OWN INITIATIVE. FURTHERMORE, HE DENIED "ABSURD SPECULATIONS" THAT IRAN WANTED NUCLEAR WASTE TO GET ACCESS TO WEAPONS-GRADE MATERIAL.

4. AN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN OF THE FRG GOVERNMENT COMMENTED ON THIS NEW OFFER OF THE SHAH BY POINTING UNCLASSIFIED

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OUT THE NECESSITY THAT AN INDUSTRIAL NATION LIKE THE FRG PROVEITS ABILITY--IN PRINCIPLE AND IN PRACTICE--TO SOLVE THE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PROBLEM ON ITS OWN WITHOUT DEPENDENCE ON THIRD NATIONS. DESPITE THIS UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT, THE "BONNER GENERALANZEIGER", A USUALLY WELL INFORMED NEWSPAPER, QUOTED AN UNIDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING IT WAS NOW CONCEIVABLE THAT THE FRG WOULD USE FOREIGN SITES TO DISPOSE OF ITS NUCLEAR WASTE.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FIRMLY CONFIRM GERMANY'S PLAN FOR AN INTEGRATED NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER (REF A), IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT CERTAIN POLITICAL GROUPS SEEK ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS (REF B). IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH TO THE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PROBLEM WOULD EASE THE ONGOING NUCLEAR CONTROVERSY IN THE FRG, BECAUSE THE SHAH'S PROPOSAL IS AS YET VERY VAGUE. IT SEEMS MOST PROBABLE THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT

WILL PURSUE ITS ORIGINAL PLAN AND RESUME LICENSING
OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AS SOON AS THE FEDERAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEES HAVE APPROVED THE SAFETY CONCEPT FOR THE
PROJECTED 1500 TONNE REPROCESSING CENTER (REF C). STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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